

SABBATH SCHOOL TEACHING.

HINTS BY REV. WILBUR F. CRAFTS.

THE hardest of Sabbath school problems to solve, and one of the most important, *How to get scholars to study the lessons at home*, may be at least partly solved, as some teachers have proved, by giving out in advance specific ASSIGNMENTS of points to be looked up.

For instance, at the close of the lesson, or by mail on Monday or Tuesday following, or by calls at the homes of scholars, let the teacher give written assignments of some work on the next lesson to each member of the class, such as the following, some or all of them being given in duplicate to several if the class is large:

1. Draw a map showing the scene of the lesson, and the geography of Christ's life thus far; Bethlehem, Egypt, Nazareth and the Jordan, and not much else. Show by a journey line supposed route taken by Jesus from each of these places to the next.
2. Write out briefly all we know of previous life of Christ. See opening chapters of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
3. Find prophecies fulfilled in this lesson. See marginal references.
4. Find relationship of Jesus and John and their ages. (Cousins, John 6 months the older).
5. Find passages which show that John the Baptist was very brave in saying what he felt it his duty to say both to crowds and to crowned heads. (Matt. 3:7-10; 14:4).
6. Find a story in the Gospel of John showing the humility and unselfishness of John the Baptist. (John 3. 26-30).
7. Find the words in which he foretold that Jesus was to be sacrificed for us. (John 1:29).
8. Write a definition of repentance. (Regretting, confessing and forsaking our sins, with restitution when possible).
9. How is the Holy Spirit like water? (In that both afford gladness, power and cleansing. To Jesus, the Holy Spirit brought only gladness and power, but to us it brings cleansing, first of us)
10. Write the two best reasons for being baptized. (The example and command of Jesus).

The words in parenthesis are, of course, for teachers only. If blank books are provided in which to write up assignments week after week, it will increase the interest, especially if pastors and parents and the superintendent are to see them when filled.

Such advance assignments will not only help scholars to study definitely—many of them do not know how to study otherwise—but will also make the teacher's mind like a loadstone, filled with the lesson all the preceding week and so attracting illustrations and applications every day. We know a teacher who by this method secured regular home study of the lesson from

the hardest class of unruly boys in the school. Try it. If it seems to fail "try, try again," as she did, and like her you will succeed.—*Ex.*

THE BIBLE IN THE HOME.

BY REV. T. NOBLE, CHICAGO.

THE home is one of the earliest and divinest institutions of earth. The spot of earth stands upon is precious. Its unity, its individuality, its whole distinctive economy is hallowed. The love and self-sacrificing devotion of parents, the reverend and obedient affection of children—these are hints of something above the earth. The heart of a child turns instinctively to the home, and knows no other place so attractive. There is the father, provident and wise, and known familiarly and loved tenderly as he is nowhere else on earth. There is the mother, patient, industrious, careful, and she loves, and still loves, with a swelling tide right on unto the end. There are the brothers and sisters, grouped in one fond circle of courteous and mutual helpers. There is the old hearthstone, around which all gather, and where the long evenings are spent in reading and social delight. There is the table, unlike all other tables, from which God's bounty is daily partaken. There is the home room, where all constraint is removed, and where the joy and freedom of familiar intercourse reign undisputed. There is, or there ought to be, the family altar, whence ascends the incense of devout gratitude to the heavenly Father for His Infinite goodness day by day. There is the sick-room. There is the chamber of birth and the chamber of death. There are the tokens scattered up and down, and radiant with the memories of those who have gone before. There are the birthday festivals. There are the unions and reunions of severed ones—types suggestive of those higher and holier meetings Christian households shall experience beyond the valley of the shadow. There life-plans are talked over and formed. There griefs are softly whispered and hopes announced. There confidential disclosures are made. There sympathies deep and precious and true are shared. To the home does the body in its feebleness, and the heart in its weariness, and the brain under pressure of throbbing excitement, turn for refuge. God pity those who have no home! For the sun, in all his journeyings around the globe looks down upon nothing which has gathered into itself so much that is comforting and inspiring as the love-sanctified home. It lies right along on the borders of the better land. No appeal comes nearer the heart than the thought of the heavenly home. The emotions which the home awakens lift the heart easily and naturally into the contemplation of divine promises and divine verities.

All this, therefore makes of the home a golden